



K A N S A S

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OFFICE OF THE KANSAS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Press Release on Arson Awareness Month:

Today, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius proclaimed the month of May as Arson Awareness Month. Attending the proclamation signing were members of the Kansas Committee on Arson Prevention. The committee's purpose is to promote the mutual interests of its members in controlling the crime of arson and to alert the general public as to the consequences of arson and the need for action to control it.

The crime of arson causes hundreds of deaths and injuries and over \$4 billion in property and other economic losses each year in this great nation of ours; and Kansas averages over 2,000 arson fires per year for the last five years as reported to the State Fire Marshal. These fires resulted in the deaths of 65 citizens, injured 139 citizens and 219 fire service personnel and over \$86 million in property damage.

This crime costs the citizens of Kansas 25 cents of every dollar they pay in insurance premiums, to cover the devastating cost of arson.

The Kansas Committee on Arson Prevention, a statewide coalition of law enforcement, fire service and insurance industry professionals working to combat the costly crime of arson, urge Kansans to report information they might have about fires in their community to the State of Kansas toll-free Crime/Arson Hotline at 1-800-KS-Crime; and

State Fire Marshal Jack Alexander and the dedicated staff of the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office, in cooperation with the Kansas Committee on Arson Prevention, urge all Kansans to help in our crusade to put arsonists out of business.